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Don't get bitten: ignorance is no longer a valid excuse.

DANGEROUS GOODS NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2013

Welcome to the February 2013 issue of our Dangerous Goods & Hazardous Materials newsletter. In this issue we give you a round-up of the latest news from the Australian Institute of Dangerous Goods Consultants (AIDGC) and industry news.

AIDGC newsletter; [click here](#)

TAKE OUR SURVEY

We are seeking your assistance on dangerous goods in the workplace. Below is a link to a short survey that Store-Safe has initiated that we hope will give a snapshot of dangerous goods in the workplace and levels of compliance. We will publish the results in our March 2013 newsletter and hope that the feedback that you and your colleagues provide will be of value and use. The survey is confidential. Should you wish to add further comment or input to our survey, please feel free to email us – these too will be included in the survey's results and summary.

Survey link: [Survey](#)

WorkCover Alert ♦ WorkCover Alert ♦ WorkCover Alert ♦ WorkCover Alert

WorkCover (NSW) has issued a safety alert about the adverse health effects of volatile solvents and thinners following the death of a young worker who died while using a volatile solvent to clean the inside of a boat's hull. The solvent vapours were inhaled and the solvent absorbed through the skin causing the young worker to lose consciousness and die due to cardiac arrhythmias.

All volatile solvents have the potential to cause a person to lose consciousness, and suffer a cardiac arrhythmia and possibly death when used in an enclosed or poorly ventilated area. Toluene xylene, hexane, methyl ethyl ketone, naphthalene, and other petroleum-based solvents have been implicated in deaths. Other chemicals present in proprietary thinners can greatly increase skin absorption causing or exacerbating toxic effects.

The solvent was similar to paint thinners. It had a combination of volatile ingredients that made it easy to inhale vapours and the solvent was readily absorbed through the skin. The boat hull had no ventilation to remove the solvent vapours. No appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) was worn, such as a respiratory mask or gloves.

Nuclear Reactor Fire

A fire broke out at a nuclear research reactor in Sydney on 8 January but authorities said the blaze was brought under control and there appeared to be no damage to the reactors. The fire broke out as the city sweltered through a heatwave which has triggered dozens of bushfires, but the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO) said the incident was not linked to the weather conditions. The state fire service said smoke was detected in an electrical

substation at the rear of the Lucas Heights nuclear facility in southern Sydney shortly after 10:30 am (2330 GMT Monday) but the source was yet to be found. "ANSTO is currently undertaking an investigation into the cause of the issue although it is not believed that it was linked to current weather conditions," the spokesman said.

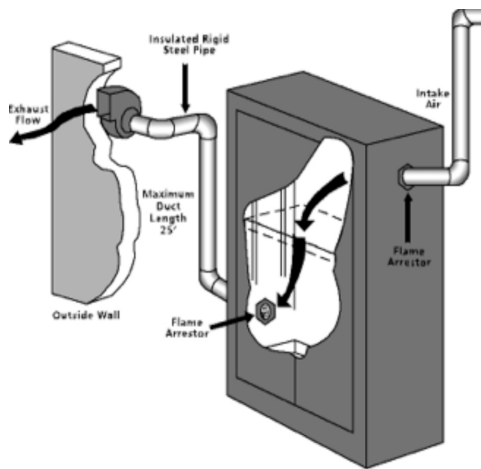
Comecare: Updates to WHS Laws

The latest AIDGC Newsletter also reports on the recent WHS laws that may impact your organisation. As of 1 January 2013 PCBUs will be responsible for notifying Comcare of lead risk work that is being undertaken in the workplace where lead is to be removed. Written notice must be supplied to Comcare within seven days of the works being undertaken. Also from January 1 2013, PCBUs must apply for an authorisation to use, handle or store carcinogens at a workplace. Authorisation will be subject to approval from Comcare and PCBUs will be required to demonstrate their risk management to assure appropriate consideration has been given to the health and safety of workers.

The correct safe storage of carcinogens in the workplace is critical. Store-Safe has an extensive range of compliant dangerous goods and hazardous materials storage options. Visit the website for details and specifications or contact the Store-Safe office in your state.

Flammable and Chemical Storage Cabinet Ventilation

The various Australian Standards for the Storage and Handling of Chemicals provides minimum design and performance specification requirements for the type of chemical storage cabinets for each respective standard.



The Information and Guideline Bulletin has been prepared by Pratt Safety Systems to provide a summary of standards in respect to the ventilation of the cabinets they manufacture.

Information and Guideline Bulletin: [Click here](#)

Ten Chemicals of Major Public Health Concern.

The World health Organisation has released its list of the top ten chemicals of concern, and many of these chemicals are a part of daily life. These include:

- **Air pollution:** Indoor air pollution from solid fuel use and urban outdoor air pollution are estimated to be responsible for 3.1 million premature deaths world-wide every year and 3.2% of the global burden of disease.

- **Arsenic:** Soluble inorganic arsenic is acutely toxic. Intake of inorganic arsenic over a long period can lead to chronic arsenic poisoning (arsenicosis).
- **Asbestos:** All types of asbestos cause lung cancer, mesothelioma, cancer of the larynx and ovary, and asbestosis (fibrosis of the lungs).
- **Benzene:** Human exposure to benzene has been associated with a range of acute and long term adverse health effects and diseases, including cancer and aplastic anaemia. Exposure can occur occupationally and domestically as a result of the ubiquitous use of benzene-containing petroleum products including motor fuels and solvents.
- **Cadmium:** Cadmium exerts toxic effects on the kidney, the skeletal and the respiratory systems, and is classified as a human carcinogen. It is generally present in the environment at low levels however; human activity has greatly increased those levels. Cadmium can travel long distances from the source of emission by atmospheric transfer. It is readily accumulated in many organisms, notably molluscs and crustaceans.
- **Dioxins & dioxin-like substances:** Dioxins and dioxin-like substances, including PCBs, are persistent organic pollutants (POPs) covered by the Stockholm Convention. They can travel long distances from the source of emission, and bioaccumulate in food chains.
- **Inadequate or excess fluoride:** Fluoride intake has both beneficial effects – in reducing the incidence of dental caries – and negative effects – in causing enamel and skeletal fluorosis following prolonged high exposure. The ranges of intakes producing these opposing effects are not far apart.
- **Lead:** Lead is a toxic metal whose widespread use has caused extensive environmental contamination and health problems in many parts of the world. It is a cumulative toxicant that affects multiple body systems, including the neurologic, hematologic, gastrointestinal, cardiovascular, and renal systems
- **Mercury:** Mercury is toxic to human health, posing a particular threat to the development of the child in utero and early in life. Mercury exists in various forms: elemental (or metallic); inorganic (e.g. mercuric chloride); and organic (e.g., methyl- and ethylmercury), which all have different toxic effects, including on the nervous, digestive and immune systems, and on lungs, kidneys, skin and eyes.
- **Highly hazardous pesticides:** Highly hazardous pesticides may have acute and/or chronic toxic effects, and pose particular risk to children. Their widespread use has caused health problems and fatalities in many parts of the world, often as a result of occupational exposure and accidental or intentional poisonings.

Two die in gas leak at Hindustan Zinc plant

Workers and villagers went on the rampage in January at Hindustan Zinc Limited's Dariba plant in Rajsamand after two of their colleagues died of severe burns and suffocation following leak of carbon monoxide from a boiler. 2 die in gas leak at Hindustan Zinc plant TOI 05 Jan 2013, 07:14 IST

Solvents and IBCs

As part of their strong commitment towards the support of a safe and responsible use of solvents, ESIG and SIA (Solvents Industry Association) have produced a video presentation in order to increase the awareness of safe IBC handling among solvent users and to promote best

practice techniques throughout the supply chain. The video can be viewed at: [Click Here to watch video](#)

The safe and compliant storage of IBCs containing dangerous and hazardous liquids is law. Store-Safe has a range of approved storage facilities for single and multiple IBCs. Visit the Store-Safe web site for more details and technical information.



We hope that this issue of our newsletter has been interesting and informative. Should you require information on storage and handling products please contact **Joe Carrillo in NSW 02 9569 2122** or **Glen Head in Qld 07 3245 3733** and **Grant Breeze in Vic 03 9314 0444** or our web site www.store-safe.com We also hope that you take our Dangerous Goods survey. Your participation is greatly appreciated.

Kind regards

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